

# COAL NONFATAL

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
(Underground Coal Mine)

NONINJURY COAL MINE OUTBURST ACCIDENT

Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine (ID No. 05-00301)  
Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.  
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

January 13, 1983

by

Michael C. Stanton  
Coal Mine Inspector

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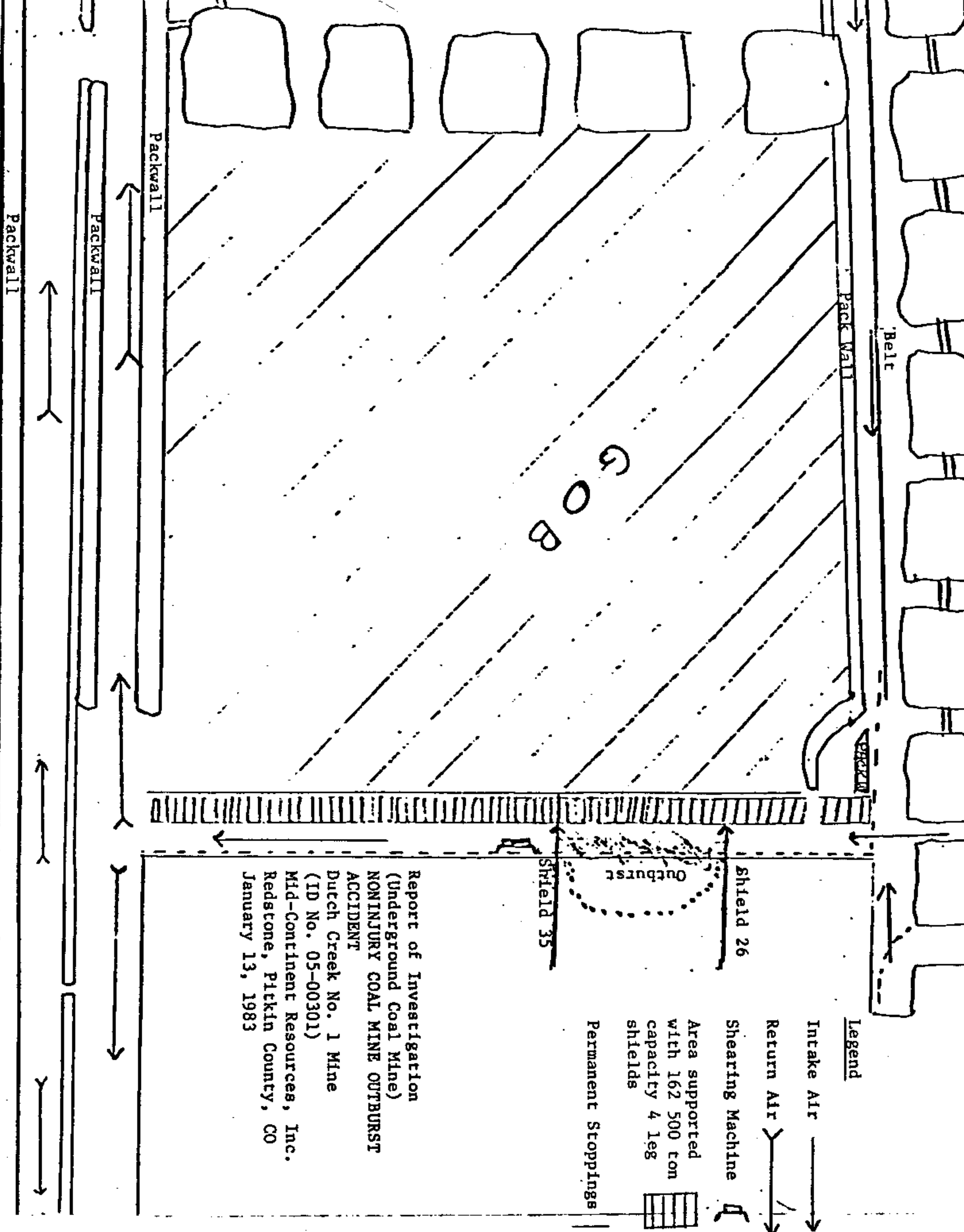
Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Drawer J, 575 East First South, Price, Utah 84501  
Jensen L. Bishop, Subdistrict Manager

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Belt

Pack Wall

Packwall

Packwall

Packwall

Legend

Intake Air

Return Air

Shearing Machine

Area supported with 162 500 ton capacity 4 leg shields

Permanent Stoppings

Shield 26

Shield 35

Outburst

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# Abstract of Investigation

U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration



## Authority —

This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 95-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164.

### SECTION A — IDENTIFICATION DATA

Noninjury Coal Mine  
1. Title of investigation: Outburst Accident  
2. Date MESA investigation started: 01/13/83  
3. Report release date: 02/09/83  
4. Mine: Dutch Creek No. 1  
5. Mine ID number: 05-00301  
6. Company: Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.  
7. Town, County, State: Redstone, Pitkin, CO  
8. Author(s): Michael C. Stanton

### SECTION D — ORIGINATING OFFICE

18 Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Coal Mine Health and Safety District No.: 9  
Address: Drawer J, Price, UT 84501

### SECTION B — MINE INFORMATION

9. Daily production: 1,500  
10. Surface employment: 4  
11. Underground employment: 80  
12. Name of coalbed: Coal Basin "B"  
13. Thickness of coalbed: 84 inches

### SECTION C — LAST QUARTERLY FREQUENCY RATE (HSAC) FOR

14. Industry: 11.08  
15. This operation: 36.45  
16. Training program approved: Yes  
17. Mine Profile Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION E — ABSTRACT

On Thursday, January 13, 1983, about 12 noon p.m., an outburst of coal occurred in the face of the 102 longwall section. The accident occurred due to the overburden which is in excess of 2,500 feet. No injuries or property damage were sustained.

### SECTION F — MINE ORGANIZATION

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	John A. Reeves	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
20. Superintendent:	Allyn Davis	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
21. Safety Director:	Donald Ford	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Donald Ford	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
23. Labor Organization:	None	
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	NA	

### Commentary

On Thursday, January 13, 1983, the day shift mining crew, under the supervision of Murray Aitken, Section Foreman, entered the mine and traveled to the 102 advancing longwall section, arriving about 7:30 a.m. Aitken examined the section and assigned various work assignments to the crew. Regular work commenced until the accident occurred about 12:00 noon. Ken Martin and Mike Jerome, head and tailgate operators respectively, were cutting the face towards the tailgate. The headgate cutting shear wheel of the Eickoff 300 LH Shear was located at the 38 shield when the coal outburst occurred. The coal outburst pushed coal from the face of the advancing longwall for 80 inches for a length of 42 feet between shields 26 to 35. The coal layed at an angle of repose from the roof to the top of the face conveyor side board. Charles Loveland located at the headgate control station stated that all electricity to the longwall was deenergized at the transformer instantly by methane monitors, with sensors located at the last tailgate shield and in the 101 bleeder entry. The occurrence was reported promptly to MSHA inspector Michael C. Stanton by mine underground communication at 12:05 p.m. on January 13, 1983, and an investigation was started immediately.

### Discussion and Evaluation

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence of the outburst of coal:

1. The force of the outburst coming from the face of the advancing longwall face pushed loose coal approximately 80 inches filling the longwall face conveyor 42 feet between shields 26 to 35.
2. The outburst of coal did affect ventilation.
3. This seam of coal has considerable overburden in excess of 2,500 feet.
4. The longwall face being mined was approximately 800 feet long, being mined by advance longwall method and the construction of packwalls to obtain ventilation and haulage entries.

### Findings of Fact

Evidence and findings of the investigation indicated there were no violations of Title 30 CFR which contributed to the occurrence of the accident.

Conclusion

Probable cause of the outburst of coal was a build-up of pressures on the longwall face due to overburden which is in excess of 2,500 feet.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael C. Stanton*

Michael C. Stanton  
Coal Mine Inspector

Approved by:

*Jensen L. Bishop*  
Jensen L. Bishop  
Subdistrict Manager

## APPENDIX

The investigation was conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and those persons present during the investigation were:

### Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Officials

Donald Ford	Safety Director
Allyn Davis	Superintendent
M. J. Turnipseed	Vice President, Mine Operation
John Reeves, Jr.	Longwall Manager

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

Michael C. Stanton	Coal Mine Inspector
Louis Villegos	Coal Mine Inspector
Harold Shaffer	Coal Mine Inspector (Electrical)